

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by limiting the water-dispersible urethane based resin to those derived from a polyether diol, as supported in the specification at page 14, line 17.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejections:

under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-16 and 18-19 as anticipated by H2113 (Nichols et al);

and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over:

for Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10 and 13-15, Nichols et al alone,

for Claim 2, Nichols et al in view of U.S. 6,245,832 (Suzuki et al);

for Claim 5, Nichols et al in view of EP 1167466 (Hirasa et al);

for Claim 8, Nichols et al in view of EP 1219689 (Sano et al);

for Claim 17, Nichols et al in view of U.S. 5,879,439 (Nagai et al) and U.S.

5,748,208 Uchiyama et al),

are all traversed.

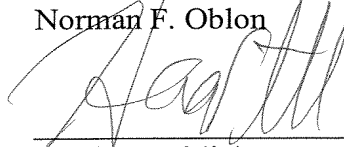
In addition to the arguments made over Nichols et al alone and combined with the other prior art of record, which Applicants still maintain, note that the present claims now require that the water-dispersible urethane based resin be limited to those derived from a polyether diol. Nichols et al, on the other hand, is limited to a urethane based resin derived from a polyester polyol (column 4, line 1; column 5, line 13; column 18, line 22, etc). Nichols et al neither discloses nor suggests using a urethane based resin derived from any other type of polyol. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

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Reply to Final Office Action of June 19, 2007

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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